

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Below is a listing of claims that will replace all prior listings, and versions, of the claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A biosensor that is made of a single layer or plural layers of a porous material, said biosensor having a reagent holding part which holds a reagent for analyzing an analyte in a liquid specimen having cell components contained therein, said biosensor analyzing target components in the liquid specimen by utilizing chromatography, said biosensor further comprising:

a carrier carrying a cell shrinkage reagent having the ability of making the cell components of said liquid specimen shrink on at least a part of an area of said carrier, wherein the shrunk cell components are made smaller by said cell shrinkage reagent, said area ranging from a specimen addition part to which the liquid specimen is added to a reagent holding part thereof; and

a reaction layer chromatographically downstream of said carrier on which a reaction between the analyte in the liquid specimen and a reagent eluted from the reagent holding part is carried out, ~~permitting analysis of the analyte in the liquid specimen, wherein the shrunk cell components of said liquid specimen permeate together with the liquid specimen into said reaction layer in a mixed state for analysis to occur,~~

wherein the reaction layer includes a porous material that permits the shrunk cell components to penetrate the reaction layer in a manner that forms a mixed state that comprises the liquid specimen mixed with at least the shrunk cell components, the analyte, and the reagent.

2. (Canceled Without Prejudice or Disclaimer)

3. (Previously Presented) The biosensor of Claim 1 wherein the liquid specimen is a solution including bacteria.

4. (Original) The biosensor of Claim 1 wherein the cell shrinkage reagent is inorganic salt.

5. (Withdrawn) The biosensor of Claim 1 wherein the cell shrinkage reagent is amino acid.

6. (Withdrawn) The biosensor of Claim 1 wherein the cell shrinkage reagent is saccharide.

7. (Previously Presented) The biosensor of Claim 1 wherein the carrier that carries the cell shrinkage reagent is dried naturally or dried by air-drying.

8. (Previously Presented) The biosensor of Claim 1 wherein the carrier that carries the cell shrinkage reagent is dried by freeze-drying.

9. (Previously Presented) The biosensor of Claim 1 wherein the carrier that carries the cell shrinkage reagent is dried by heat drying.

10. (Canceled Without Prejudice or Disclaimer)

11. (Original) The biosensor of Claim 1 wherein the biosensor is a dry analytical element.

12-23 (Canceled Without Prejudice or Disclaimer).

24. (Withdrawn) The blood component analytical method of Claim 35 wherein a blood specimen to be added is whole blood.

25. (Withdrawn) The blood component analytical method of Claim 35 wherein the cell shrinkage reagent is inorganic salt.

26. (Withdrawn) The blood component analytical method of Claim 35 wherein the cell shrinkage reagent is amino acid.

27. (Withdrawn) The blood component analytical method of Claim 35 wherein the cell shrinkage reagent is saccharide.

28-30. (Canceled Without Prejudice or Disclaimer)

31. (Previously Withdrawn) The blood component analytical method of Claim 35 wherein the concentration of the cell shrinkage reagent is in the range of about 0.1 to about 5.0M.

32. (Withdrawn) The blood component analytical method of Claim 35 wherein the biosensor is a one-step immunochromatographic test strip.

33. (Withdrawn) The blood component analytical method of Claim 35 wherein the biosensor is a dry analytical element.

34. (Previously Presented) The biosensor of Claim 1 wherein the concentration of the cell shrinkage reagent is in the range of about 0.1 to about 5.0M.

35. (Withdrawn) A blood component analytical method which employs a biosensor that is made of a single layer or plural layers of a porous material, said biosensor having a reagent holding part which holds a reagent for analyzing an analyte in a blood specimen, a carrier, and a reaction layer chromatographically downstream of said carrier wherein said biosensor analyzes target components in the blood specimen by utilizing chromatography, said analytical method comprising the steps of:

adding said blood specimen to a specimen addition part of said biosensor;

shrinking cell components of said blood specimen using a cell shrinkage reagent of said biosensor that is disposed on at least a part of an area of said biosensor, said area ranging from said specimen addition part to which the blood specimen is added to the reagent holding part thereof, wherein said cell shrinkage agent is dissolved from the area carrying said cell shrinkage reagent by the blood specimen added to the specimen addition part and infiltrating into the area carrying the cell shrinkage reagent and in which the resulting shrunk cell components are smaller;

chromatographically permeating the cell components in a state where shrunk cell components included in the blood specimen are mixed with the blood specimen;

marking the analyte in the blood specimen which is chromatographically permeated with the reagent which has been held in the reagent holding part, wherein the shrunk cell components are permeated together with the blood specimen toward said reaction layer that is provided chromatographically downstream, wherein the shrunk cell components and the blood specimen are permeated into the reaction layer in a state where each of the shrunk cell components and the blood specimen are mixed; and

performing the analysis of the analyte in the blood specimen in said reaction layer in which a reaction of the analyte in the blood specimen and the reagent which is dissolved from the reagent holding part is first carried out.

36. (Previously Presented) A biosensor in the form of a one-step immunochromatographic test strip that is made of a single layer or plural layers of a porous material, said biosensor having a reagent holding part which holds a reagent for analyzing an analyte in a liquid specimen which is whole blood having cell components contained therein, said biosensor analyzing target components in the liquid specimen by utilizing chromatography, said biosensor further comprising:

a carrier carrying a cell shrinkage reagent having the ability of making the cell components of said liquid specimen shrink on at least a part of an area of said carrier, wherein the shrunk cell components are made smaller by said cell shrinkage reagent, said area ranging from a specimen addition part to which the liquid specimen is added to a reagent holding part thereof; and

a reaction layer chromatographically downstream of said carrier on which a reaction between the analyte in the liquid specimen and a reagent eluted from the reagent holding part is carried out, permitting analysis of the analyte in the liquid specimen, wherein the shrunk cell components of said liquid specimen permeate together with the liquid specimen into said reaction layer in a mixed state for analysis to occur.